

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19  
By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study  
public school dropout rates in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, The State of Tennessee 2002 Statewide Report Card gave Tennessee's Public Schools (grades 9-12) a grade of C, or average, relative to the number of children who dropped out of school prior to graduation; and

WHEREAS, With 12.5% as the dropout percentage rate for 2002, Tennessee showed some improvement from 2001, when 13.9% of Tennessee's children had dropped out of school prior to earning a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, We continuously strive to achieve a 0% dropout rate in Tennessee, where every child who enters school will eventually graduate with a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, A 1987 research report, entitled *Dropout Prevention: What We Have Learned*, states: "Increasingly, it is being recognized that the issues of dropping out and dropout prevention cannot be separated from issues affecting our total economic and social structure. These issues include poverty, unemployment, discrimination, the role of the family, social values, the welfare cycle, child abuse, and drug abuse."; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative to the success of this State's children, and hence its economy and the total welfare of its people, that the individual and societal factors contributing to our public schools' exceptionally high dropout rate be studied to assist the General Assembly in addressing this perplexing problem; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study public school dropout rates in this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and five (5) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly, no later than February 1, 2004, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.